



Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations in parts per million (ppm), plotted by month for the period March 1958–December 2004, as measured at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii. No data are available for June 1958, October 1958, or February–April 1964. The monthly data reveal both the natural cycle of seasonal increases and decreases in CO₂ and the prominent overall increasing trend, largely caused by human activities. (Data from C. D. Keeling, T. P. Whorf, and the Carbon Dioxide Research Group, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, July 14, 2005; photograph © 2006 Rinderart, Arkamind Technologies Limited.)